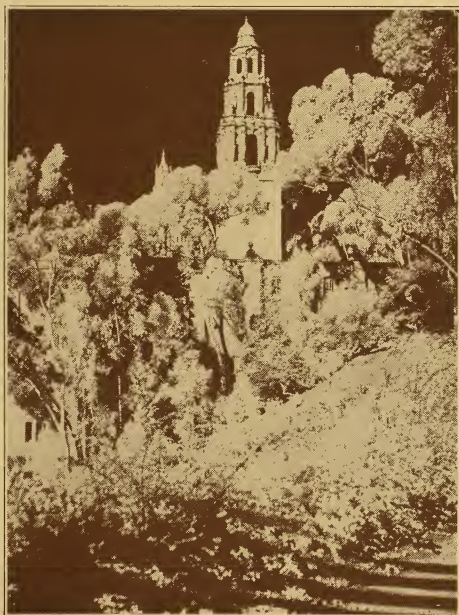


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**JANUARY
FEBRUARY
1936**

The California Pacific
International Exposition
of 1936

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Home Grounds

By Fred Wylie

New Zealand's Flora
By K. O. Sessions

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TEN THOUSAND TIMES NO TO REQUESTS FOR FREE SEEDS

The flow of "free seed" letters is beginning again, but indications are there will be fewer than last year. For 13 years the U. S. Department of Agriculture has been trying to convince 100,000,000 people that it has no free seeds or plants. Yet each year, as spring approaches, thousands of requests pour in from farms, suburbs and penthouses. And all the writers of these letters meet disappointment.

Years ago—previous to 1923—there was an annual appropriation for free seeds for Congressional distribution through the Department of Agriculture. But in 1923 the Government decided to discontinue the distribution of this great quantity of seed since it was only commercial garden seed such as could be bought from any good seed house and did not necessarily represent varieties better than those in common use.

Not only does the Department of Agriculture have no free seed, it has no seeds or plants for sale either.

REPORT OF JANUARY MEETING

Frank Gander's talk on adapting native shrubs to San Diego gardens was the feature of the first Floral Association meeting in 1936. Held on the usual third Tuesday of the month, the January meeting was very well attended; and favorable comments on the splendid program were heard on every side. As a member of the natural history mu-

seum staff, Mr. Gander does some very interesting work in the county and he is always able to bring a new angle into his informative discussions. He brought pressed specimens and pictures with him as actual illustrations.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

By Ada Perry

The December meeting of the Floral association was naturally concerned with berried shrubs and so many fine specimens of them were presented by Miss Kate Sessions, John Morley, Balboa Park superintendent, and others that San Diego seemed the best place in the world for berried shrubs at Christmas time. Looking at Miss Sessions' wreaths of Catalina cherry and toyon berries fairly made one sorry for those who have to depend on real holly.

Fred Wylie gave a fine talk on berried shrubs, a copy of which he handed to the association scribe. An occurrence like this is so rare and so welcome that the speech is reprinted in this issue of California Garden. It is full of practical pointers and down to earth information.

Miss Sessions showed specimens of a red flowering Hawaiian ipomea, acacia pendula, jasminum primulinum and erica regerminans, all winter bloomers. She brought a picture of the sausage tree, kigelia pinnata, from Florida which certainly had appetite appeal if not conventional beauty. The "sausages" are the long, thick pods.

A SAGA OF THE PANSY

My mother told me this story. Grandmother had told it to her, great-grandmother to grandmother, and so on back—no one knows how far. It came out of Germany.

Holding a pansy blossom in her hand, mother said to me, "Did you ever wonder why the bottom petal of a pansy is always gorgeous, vivid, and gay, while the two petals at the top are always plain?"

I had to admit I had not even noticed that fact.

Mother continued, "I'll tell you why. See, the brightest petal is in the foreground, and stands alone. She is a queen, vain, haughty, and selfish. She wears the richest and loveliest gowns that can be devised by the court seamstresses.

"On each side of this proud beauty are her two own daughters. You will notice they, too, are dressed beautifully; although the queen always takes care that the daughters do not outshine her.

"At the top, are the queen's two poor little step-daughters. See, they must always wear entirely plain dresses without any trimming. Yet they are beautiful in their very simplicity."

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February program will be especially valuable as C. I. Jerabek will talk on acacias, which will be bloom at that time. Mr. Jerabek is one of the best sources of information on plants in the city and the Floral association finds him a most valuable and well liked member. "Ask Mr. Jerabek" has become a by-word in the association when someone wants a plant name. A. P.

HAKEA LAURINA

By K. O. Sessions

The Hakeas are Australian shrubs and the varieties in cultivation here are very different in appearance from each other. The same kind of a seed pod is the only tie that holds them in the same genus to the casual observer. One gardener's dictionary lists fifty varieties. *Hakea suaveolens* (sweet smelling) is a vigorous, round growing, large green shrub with fine needle-like leaves and with needle tips. It flourishes near the coast and very drought resistant.

Hakea puginiformis is more slender, same type of foliage with very savage, sharp pointed and stiff leaves, as its name signifies. It is seldom planted, too savage.

Hakea saligna is a drooping small tree or taller shrub, foliage excellent and is desirable. Its drooping habit gives it the willow-like name. Flowers small and white and inconspicuous.

Hakea laurina, laurel like leaf, is the best known variety in cultivation here. Its natural habit is a very round and solid, formal shrub, standing drought and coastal locations. It needs no staking or pruning to make a perfect specimen. It is also called *H. eucaliptoides* because its two-inch colored blossoms look like a eucalyptus flower.

Mr. C. I. Jerabek, in charge of the park in Old Town (North San Diego) decided to make it develop into a tree rather than a round ball. He planted several small plants, gave them a tall stake and kept the central stem tied to the stake. The side branches be kept shortened but not cut off. In about three years he has a most attractive and symmetrical small tree, a good winter bloomer and desirable for parking space or the inside garden. These trees should be examined and observed by everyone interested in good, shapely and attractive plants. I took their pictures for a proof.

I shall certainly plant a lot of seed this spring. All the plants I have in five gallon cans I have tied to a stake and done a little trimming to teach them how to become more useful and desirable plants.

K. O. SESSIONS.

January and February in the Garden

By WALTER BIRCH JR.

... A Seasonal Calendar of Garden Activities

By Walter Birch, Jr.

January is no doubt the best month in the year to plant rose bushes, as they are in their dormant state and can be handled with bare roots, which is by far the most satisfactory way to handle them. In planting be sure to dig a good sized hole, at least 15 inches deep and wide enough to accommodate the roots without cramping them. Mix a good lot of well rotted manure thoroughly with the soil. Place plants in upright position in the hole, spread roots out, working the soil around the roots a little at a time, at the same time treading firmly with the foot. The depth plants should be set is about an inch deeper than they were in the nursery row. This can be ascertained by the color of the bark, which will be considerably darker. Leave a shallow depression around each plant and fill with water a couple of times. Remember that roses do best in full sun, and require plenty of water.

Some of the newer varieties are: first and foremost, San Diego—originated in San Diego, by Mr. Forrest L. Hieatt, a full double rose of fine form and substance; a deep orange-apricot with edging of carmine and orchid in the bud stage and opening to pure gold overlaid with orchid. Alezane—reddish brown buds opening to sorrel, unfurling from sorrels to rich apricot, reverse of petals striped with yellow veins. Carrie Jacobs Bond—coral rose flowers, borne on shaft-like stems well above the sea green foliage. Carmelita—vivid red. Gloaming—soft satiny pink tinged with salmon and amber. Li Bures—maroon red buds, opening to bright shades of pink, orange and yellow; when fully open, the outer petals are usually bright pink and the center salmon and orange. Nigrette—The Black Rose of Sangerhausen. Red Hoover—Bright red—a sport of the popular President Hoover. Token

—orange bud, open flower orange with pink. Texas Centennial—rich luminous red. Yosemite—a beautiful coppery orange.

The Japanese Lilies do very well planted now. *Lilium Henryi*—a very tall growing lily with fine foliage, bearing many deep-yellow flowers. *Lilium Rubrum*—flowers white shaded and spotted with crimson. One of the best for cut flowers. *Lilium Tigrinum*—this is the Tiger Lily; handsome orange salmon flowers, spotted black. *Lilium Auratum*—Gold Banded Lily of Japan; flowers white, spotted crimson, with a pure gold band running through the center of each petal. Lilies should be planted where you intend to leave them without being disturbed. They are really not at their best until they have been in the ground for three or four years. The Bulbs should be planted about eight or ten inches deep in soil that has been well mixed with rotted manure and sand.

Tuberous Rooted Begonia Bulbs will be ready about the end of January and we can think of nothing that will make a finer show of blooms during the Summer months. They may be grown either in a lath house or outside in a semi-shady location, they like plenty of light, but not direct sun. The Bulbs should be planted about one-half inch deep in a sandy loam and watered lightly until the plants are well grown. There are a number of interesting variations in the types of blooms of the Tuberous Begonias, which include the plain, single and double, the frilled, single and double, the Narcissus flowered, the crested, and the Lloydii or hanging basket type. Each of these different types come in about eight separate colors.

Seeds of the following Hardy Annuals may be planted now: dulas, preferably the Sensation of Sweet Alyssum; Snapdragons, the

(Continued on Page 8)

The California Pacific International Exposition of 1936

... "Desert Moods" Epitomizes Shifting Lights and Solitude of the American Desert

Clippings from 90 varieties of fuchsia plants are now being cultivated in the Botanical Palace of the 1936 California Pacific International Exposition, opening February 12, for a unique ceremony which will be a feature of San Diegans Day, Sunday, May 17, according to Elwood T. Bailey, exposition director of special activities.

Every civic, social and fraternal organization of San Diego city and county will be represented at this unique "dedication of fuchsias" ceremony on that date. Each organization will select a representative who has done some outstanding work in behalf of city and county. From a box these delegates will draw numbered slips. Corresponding slips will be attached to the prize fuchsia slips in the Botanical Palace, and the delegates will be awarded these plants as tokens of appreciation for their achievements.

Motion pictures of the ceremony will be shown a few days later in the House of Hospitality at the exposition.

This ceremony has been made possible through the co-operation of F. A. Schwartzfager, member of the board of directors of The San Diegans, which is the hospitality and recreation division of the San Diego chamber of commerce.

Schwartzfager has devoted three years to collecting the 3,000 fuchsias, 2,000 sultana and 3,000 variegated vinca which he donated to the exposition for beautifying of the grounds.

Many unique garden spots have been added for the 1936 season of the exposition, enhancing the natural grandeur of 1400-acre Balboa Park, site of the exposition and one of the world's famed scenic paradises.

Shifting lights and the solitude of the American desert, long a theme for romancers, are epitomized in "Desert Moods," a naturalistic tableau created by Mrs. Neff K. Bakkers of San Diego.

By the use of cacti, loam, sand and rocks, Mrs. Bakkers is creating four desert scenes—"Dawn," "High Noon," "Sunset" and "Night."

Grey soil, 11 different varieties of cactus and grey rock is used in the dawn scene. Yellow sand, yellow rock and seven different varieties of cactus compose the high noon pictorialization. Red chipped granite, red rock and four cactus varieties make up the sunset scene, and black soil, black rock, leaf mold and five other varieties of cactus form the nocturnal setting.

No special lighting is used for this tableau, the graphic moods of the desert day and night being created solely through the use of the soil, cactus and rock. All the rock is from San Diego county and gives a striking idea of the many varieties to be found in this region.

Cactus from California, Arizona, Mexico and South America has been used, the rarest variety being the golden barrel cactus of Mexico.

The work is the result of much experimentation by Mrs. Bakkers. Although the actual work of installation required only ten days, Mrs. Bakkers spent six years collecting the necessary varieties of cactus. The exposition display will mark the first time she has ever staged a public exhibit of the desert scenes.

In addition to "Desert Moods," Mrs. Bakkers is putting in an adjacent succulent display with about 250 different plants from all parts of the world. The gardens are located immediately adjoining the main avenue opposite the Palace of Electricity.

The new type fun zone of the exposition will be the first of its kind ever created. Instead of a narrow, crowded street there will be a spacious central plaza with lawns and flower gardens. Show buildings of futuristic design will be grouped around this plaza.

In the Plaza de America, a tropical paradise has been created with

rows of cocos plumosa palms, flower gardens, and a cascading water fountain in the middle.

Throughout the entire area of Balboa Park, the skilled architect and landscaping engineer has added to the natural beauty by introduction of these new lawns, gardens, rustic bridges and bypaths.

"Mobile illumination" of grounds and buildings at night by use of gently shifting rays of vari-colored lights from giant sun arcs and spotlights will create a fairyland of unparalleled splendors.

In the beautiful Alcazar gardens and Palm Canyons, hundreds of twinkling colored bulbs will compose the "Vale of Fireflies," a spectacle never before beheld at any exposition.

UNCLE SAM FIRST AMONG NATIONS IN TREE PLANTING

Tree planting in this country is looking up, according to the United States Forest Service. In 1935 the Forest Service's own planting on national forest lands was very close to a quarter million acres, more than that planted by all agencies—Federal, State, and private—in 1934 when the total was 206,333 acres.

Although the figures are not yet in, it is known that many of the other agencies planted substantially greater acreages in 1935 than the year before.

Uncle Sam, although relatively new at it, is becoming the world's leading tree planter. Up to last year his grand total of plantings by all agencies amounted to only 2,394,000 acres, equal to about half the area of Massachusetts. This year's plantings in the national forests alone will increase the total by more than 10 per cent. There are more than 162,000,000 acres in our national forests alone, and the estimated total forests acreage in this country is over 500,000,000 acres.

In the whole world there is said to be about 7,500,000,000 acres of forests, more than 1,400,000,000 in North America. Asia, and South America have more than 2,000,000,000 forest acres each. Europe and Africa have less than 800,000,000 each. The countries with biggest forest resources are Russia, Brazil, Canada, and the United States.

Rock Garden Plants

Do you remember that tall and affable English rock plant authority who, some four years ago, came to California and talked to us on his special subject, showing pictures of rock plants in England and making our mouths water with descriptions of plantings in English gardens? Thomas Howell of Academy of Science (S. F.) fame had him in tow and with Mrs. Elliott they covered a large part of the state, getting to know our prominent plant enthusiasts and keeping an eye out for any of our wild flowers which have not already been caught in the large wide net of British horticulture.

He has written a book, "Rock Garden Plants," by Clarence Elliott, published in London by Arnold, in New York by Longmans, Green & Company; price \$3.00.

If you met Clarence Elliott or heard him talk, there will still be with you the memory of his wit, of his familiarity with his subject and of his ability to pass this information on to others. These qualities are all evident in this fat little green book with the androsace jacket.

There are many reasons for thankfulness over this volume. For instance, Mr. Elliott does not call it "Alpine Plants" and then include species from sea level; also he does not embrace such unsuitable enormities as hollyhocks and the like in his list, but keeps strictly and honestly to "plants suitable for growing in rock gardens."

No one can deny that Mr. Elliott knows his material and loves those flowers which appeal to him. His reputation rests on his work, not only as an English gardener, but as a plant hunter in other countries, as a flower show man, a nurseryman and a garden maker.

Throughout the book you will find constant reference to the Alpine Lawn. If you are one of those who has suffered from the monotony of many rocks on an all too even slope you will grasp with relief this phrase, which crystallizes for us that subconscious longing for a break in the rock garden and gives a definite name to a place where such low-growing plants as may be massed without injuring one another, can unite to make a suitable

Stolen Gems . . .

By MURRAY SKINNER

. . . Plant Thieves Bring Heartaches To Plant Lovers

There are heartaches and then, there are other kinds of heartaches. The kind I now shall speak about is the one you get when you go to your garden to visit with your plant friends and find here a space and there a space where someone has made free with your treasures.

Perhaps it is only a cutting; perhaps they have merely pinched a plant to see if it is real or imaginary; but, perhaps—this last a tragedy—there is the absence of some gem snatched out by ruthless fingers, and, on searching, the tiny roots are found, their torn and jagged tops mute testimony to the heartlessness of humanity.

To begin with, why does the average person have a garden, especially a flower, herb, or such type of plants garden? For love, is it not? Every plant becomes an individual, every one warlike, whether self-grown or purchased, becomes a fascinating adventure, each and every specimen is a necessary part of a soul-satisfying treasure hunt, and in every garden are to be found special gems.

How often one runs to see if this or that pet has grown, oh, an infinitesimal length; has opened its blossom, oh, a hair-breadth wider than when last seen; has begun to throw out, oh, the tiniest of leaves or offsets!

How, for the average person, the pennies are garnered; something is gone without; some careful correspondence is carried forward; some long drive is taken; all to acquire

home for dwarf bulbs and other gregarious small plants. If you know your High Sierra you will recognize the feasibility of such a planting and the important place it has in natural stands of mountain flowers.

Mr. Elliott follows the excellent plan of writing about only those

one new specimen to add to the collection.

Then, some day, one finds their treasures ravaged. Gone! A pall of helplessness settles over one. What is the use! What IS the use! Heartsick because of loss, soulsick at the thought that someone cares so little for another's hurt, mindsick trying to figure what to do. What mad thoughts stream through one's mind! Oh, what's the use! While there stands the vacant place, tiny roots begging, and somewhere one knows a contemptible cad gloats over filched plants.

A savageness possesses one. To hit out; to beat; to crush; to tear; to torture; anything to be able to protect one's own. And through all this, to stand, helpless, knowing no sense of security; knowing it will happen again; hating the thought of padlocks and keys, iron bars and neighbor-expelling high fences, and yet seeing no other way. Dreading the added expense of such locks and bars, yet facing the loss of other jewels.

May the God of plant lovers avenge with the fire and brimstone of a scorching conscience those who have done this thing. Let them writhe beneath the curse of a despoiled lover. Let their plants—all of them—die a swift and painless death. Let their eyes gloat in vain. Let their fingers ache because of their ruthlessness. Let their soul shrivel in the face of their viciousness. Let them suffer from having their own plants stolen. Amen.

plants which he has known. Would that more horticultural writers followed this practice! But the list is comprehensive enough for one book and though there are already many rock garden books, this one is badly needed. Moreover, it is readable. And that word should be written in capitals. It cannot be said of all garden books.

Berried Shrubs for the Home Grounds

By FRED WYLIE

... A Class of Plants Deserving of More General Use

This year the various berried shrubs are loaded down with their colored fruit and make the garden lover more than ever conscious of their desirability for the home grounds. Shrubs to be used for planting around the house should have diversity of form, color of foliage and of size as well as having some special seasonal feature such as flowers or fruit or both. Berried shrubs fulfill these various requirements better than most other classes of planting material.

Too many people when they go to the nursery to buy a plan for the home are concerned with the size and appearance of the plant as they see it in the nursery and are not enough concerned with the size and appearance of that same plant as it will be say five or ten years later. The shrub that will be the right size in a few years of growth at home is apt to be much smaller in the nursery than some quick growing large sized shrub which in a few years will be so large and overgrown that it is entirely unsuited for the position where it has been planted.

The nursery which is primarily concerned with the immediate profit of the sale and not much with what the plant will look like a few years later will push the easily grown weedy shrubs because they will grow to salable size in a hurry without much labor or water.

When one starts to landscape the home or even to put in one plant, one should consider what purpose that plant, tree or shrub has to fulfill. Does one want to hide some neighbors' garage or chicken coop. Then what is needed is a large shrub or small tree which is thick and bushy as well as wide spreading. Maybe one has a large expanse of bare wall where an accent is needed, or an accent is wanted at a corner or one wants a hedge. Maybe one has a terrace or steep slope—a

ground cover could be used instead of the conventional lawn, or one wants some dwarf shrubs for the rock garden. Whatever the place or situation one should ask what size, shape and form will be needed when the plant is full grown. Then buy the plant which most nearly fits the specifications rather than go to the nursery and pick up something which merely looks nice now, but in a few years may be entirely unsuitable.

Berried shrubs as a class should be used more than they are because they have a profusion of bloom in the spring and give a wonderful display of colored berries in the fall and winter at a time when there are not so many flowers in bloom. Let us examine the various shrubs to see how they fit the different locations and uses we have for them.

To hide some unsightly view or to act as a screen there is probably nothing better than *Durantia plumieria*, a large dense shrub growing to fifteen feet high and as much across but which stands pruning well. This shrub has beautiful orange yellow berries in profusion a good part of the year and usually has bloom at the same time. Our native California holly, the Toyon, has beautiful red berries at this time of year and makes a large bush and can be used as a screen if properly pruned. *Pittosporum undulatum* with its large orange berries makes a good screen if several are planted in a row.

Does one want an informal hedge? Probably there is nothing better than *pyracantha formosana*, the scarlet berried hawthorn. This makes a hedge about six feet wide and six feet high and can be pruned but if pruned too severely there will not be so many berries. This shrub with its large clusters of scarlet berries has been called the best berried shrub for Southern California.

Do you want a small accent where

the front walk leaves the sidewalk? Consider the *Cotoneaster prostrata*. This shrub sends up a branch about a foot high which curves back to the ground in a graceful arc.

With its small dark green leaves and its smoky red berries it makes a beautiful dwarf plant which once used, the home lover will always find a place for, whether in the rock garden, to cover a bank or hang over a wall. This plant's habit of prostrating its branches and then rooting where the tips touch makes it valuable as a ground cover for banks and terrace where in a few years one can have a solid mat of greenery shot with red berries in the winter.

Shrubs suitable for accents at the corners or against large blank wall spaces are *pyracantha lalandi*, the orange berries hawthorn, growing to ten feet, with stiff upright branches and not spreading. *Pittosporum undulatum*, growing to fifteen feet and making a large shrub or a small tree, with orange yellow berries, also *Pyracantha formosana* can be used if the shrub is pruned to make it grow upright, in which case it will reach a height of ten feet in a few years.

If one has a space between large shrubs where a plant not over four feet high is indicated then one can use *Cotoneaster heroviana* which reaches a height of about four feet and has red yellow berries, or *C. franchetti* with about the same appearance or the beautiful *Pyracantha yuannensis* from China with its profusion of large scarlet berries and its dark green foliage. This plant sprawls out and can be easily kept below three feet and is desirable where a low spreading effect is desirable.

The one berried shrub which is seen in front of every third house in Southern California is *Cotoneaster pannosa*, with its gray green leaves and red berries. This large shrub should only be used in a place where its long arcing branches can droop over without restriction. Other of the shrubs which I have mentioned are usually more suitable in the average yard. This is a case where the nurseryman is pushing a large quick growing shrub because it is quickly and cheaply grown.

THAT LONDON MAY BLOOM

A city gay with flowers, every piece of waste land transformed into a garden, and houses and buildings beautified with window boxes—that is the goal of the London Gardens Society.

Dahlias, gladioli, zinnias, roses and other blooms shown at the society's first exhibition of summer flowers, held here recently, were proof of what is being done. Mass displays of flowers from London's municipal authorities, together with entries from societies and individuals, showed the widespread interest in gardening which already exists in London.

Children, too, love to grow their own flowers, as was shown by the exhibit of lilies from schools of South London. These bulbs had been awarded as prizes in an earlier daffodil-growing competition organized by the South London Press.

Speaking at the prize giving at the society's first annual show, Lord Noel-Buxton, a trustee of the society, who has worked for the beautifying of London for forty years, urged Londoners to get "the window-box habit." A film was shown illustrating the activities of the society, giving views of streets before and after flowers had been planted in window boxes and gardens, and of how unemployed men had turned rubbish dumps and waste land into gardens.

School children are being taught how to garden, and several societies which encourage children to grow plants, such as the London Children's Gardens Fund, the London School Gardening Association, the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, have associated themselves with the London Gardens Society.

This society, which has taken over the work of the London Gardens Guild, is aiding the task of making London a city of growing flowers, by supplying plants and seeds to those who need them and by offering advice to the beginner.

In addition to stimulating the personal growing of flowers, the society seeks out neglected spots "which might be beautified by their attention," and with this end in

Question Box . . .

By R. R. McLEAN

QUESTION: (1) I have a small two-year-old baby and recently bought a home that has two oleander bushes in the parking. I am told the leaves are poisonous, one leaf containing enough to kill a horse. If this is so I naturally hate to take chances of my child getting a leaf. Could you tell me if there is any truth to this? (2) The back yard here has had no care and only weeds growing in it. I planted hollyhock seed by the garage and they came up lovely only to be taken by cut-worms. I find them right under the ground when I dig around the plant that has been eaten. I've also found some in the yard around dock and weeds. How do you go about riding a place of cut worms? We plan to eventually put in lawn and are keeping the weeds down and putting in flowers at different places in the yard but am afraid I won't have much luck with these worms.

E. C. R.

ANSWER: (1) It is true that oleanders are poisonous to livestock and to human beings as well, for that matter. Many cases are on record of deaths from eating leaves or chewing the wood. One particular case came to the attention of the writer during the World war when several soldiers in Texas were fatally poisoned by meat that had been skewered with oleander sticks. However, there is definite evidence that from 15 to 20 grams of green leaves would be necessary to fatally poison a horse, and 15 to 20 grams of oleander leaves would amount to 25 to 30 leaves at least, there would be relatively small danger of a child being fatally poisoned by eating only one leaf or a part of a leaf. However, even with that small amount some symptoms would undoubtedly result, and it is only the part of wisdom to keep a child away

view, is sponsoring a survey of the whole of London. Local Garden Guilds, the South London Flower Lovers' League and Girl Guides are helping in this work.—Christian Science Monitor.

. . . Oleanders Are Poisonous

from such plants. No cases of the poisoning of children from eating oleander leaves have ever come to the writers' attention, but this does not mean they have never occurred, by any means.

(2) Cutworms are best destroyed by a poisoned bran mixture scattered on the ground around the plants to be protected, as these worms will eat the bait in preference to the plants. This bait is also attractive to snails which sometimes do much more damage than the worms. The bait is made by mixing together thoroughly one-half pound of white arsenic—or paris green—one quart of cheap blackstrap molasses, and two gallons of water. Grind up three lemons, or small oranges, including the rinds, in a meat grinder and add to this liquid. Then pour this mixture slowly over twelve to 15 pounds of bran and stir until an even distribution has been secured. A barely moist mash is preferable to a wet one, as it retains its attractiveness longer. Scatter well around the plants to be protected.

QUESTION: Will you kindly give me a few comments on the care of banana trees. I have a group of about five trees on the south side of my house. The tallest tree is only about six feet in height and as the new leaves come out they turn brown and die. I am afraid all the trees will die soon, but I don't know what to do. Should I fertilize them and do they need lots of water, or what?

Mrs. O. W. B.

ANSWER: In Hawaii and in Central American countries where bananas are grown commercially, the soil contains large quantities of humus or decaying organic matter. All banana soils should be well drained. In fact, water holding capacity and good drainage are essentials in banana growing. Moisture must be abundant at all times to secure good crop yields. Fertilizers are often necessary also, which should include barnyard manures, poultry manures, etc. Lime is sometimes advisable as well.

(Continued on Page 8)

New Zealand's Flora . . .

By K. O. SESSIONS

. . . Many Natives of New Zealand Grown in California

Miss Katharine Jones of the horticultural department of the State writing articles on plants in cultivation in California for several years. At the end of the subject the articles have been reprinted into a small booklet that is most useful and valuable. The first one was on Acacias, the second on fuchsias and the third has just been received on New Zealand plants and has much valuable information for all nurserymen and interested gardeners.

We think of New Zealand as a companion of Australia but it is 1,200 miles distant and takes eight days to make a round trip to Australia. It has no eucalyptus or acacia trees, but a very interesting and varied flora that does not flourish as well as the Australian and South African plants, and comparatively few have been tried in California, though some are quite common.

The following are in cultivation in San Diego: *Pittosporum crasi-folia*, *P. tennifolia*, *P. eugenoides*, *Metrosideros tomentosa*, *Corynocarpus laevigata*, *coprosma baueri* and its two variegated foliage, one with a touch of yellow and one with

a white edge, both very attractive and not common. Also *C. albomarguiata* with almost a white leaf, much slower in growth than the others. *Dodonea viscosa*, a very sturdy, small shrub that flourishes from coast to interior valleys and on the desert. *Veronicas* in variety which lately have been renamed *Hebe* by the botanists. This genus of plants is one of the most conspicuous of New Zealand's plants. It flourishes in cool, coastal and shaded locations and is better in San Francisco than here. *Phormium tenax*, the well-known New Zealand flax, its variegated form and a charming bronze leafed form. *Myoporum laetum*, *Fuchsia excorticata*, which makes a small tree.

Santa Barbara and San Francisco have more varieties than San Diego and Mrs. Anson Blake's garden on the hills of Berkeley has 63 sorts. In 1915 New Zealand sent to the large collection which was acquired by Golden Gate Park. Miss Jones suggested that the San Diego nurseries combine to secure such a collection for our past Exposition but her article never fell into favorable hands, unfortunately.

(Continued on Page 8)

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NEW ZEALAND FLORA

(Continued from Page 7)

The 10 *Metrosideros tomentosa* planted along the ocean front park in Pacific Beach this past summer is the most conspicuous New Zealand plant and since it is well adapted to such a location, a continuous row the entire length of this county would in a few years become very fine. It resembles an oak in growth, shape and foliage, has brilliant red blossoms in the summer, is a very clean tree not shedding leaves nor bad seed pods.

To get such a planting completed would be a fine project for the boy scouts, a real monument if they would undertake their care.

ROCK GARDEN PLANTS

(Continued from Page 4)

Those of us who persist, in the face of much friendly advice to the contrary, in experimenting with plants now little known in America, will need this as a reference book. A lot of the plants mentioned are already being grown in California, —and grown well—but there are plenty of others, probably just as easy to deal with, which we should add to our list. It is not difficult to make a choice, for with experience comes a certain rather subtle intuition, enabling you to detect just which kinds will succeed in that part of California where you are carrying on your gardening activities. The faculty grows with use and every gardener should cultivate it. For to no other class of people is it so important to know when to say "Yes" and when to say "No."

Lester Rowntree,
Carmel, California.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

(Continued from Page 2)

Rust Proof strain of course; Calen-Chrysantha; Annual Chrysanthemums or Painted Daisies; Candy-tuft, Bachelor Buttons or Corn-flowers, Sweet Sultan, Clarkis, Godetia, Larkspur, Lupins, Mignonette, California and other varieties of Poppies and Wild Flower Mixtures.

In the Vegetable Garden: Carrots, Turnips, Beets, Radishes, Lettuce, Spinach, Garden Peas, Potatoes, Cabbage, Rhubarb, Asparagus and

Question Box . . .

(Continued from Page 6)

There are two possible causes of the dying of leaves, as described by you, that occur to the writer. One is the possibility of your soil being heavy or poorly drained. If this is the case anything that can be done to better the drainage will be of help. Another possibility is the occurrence of nematodes on the roots. Banana plants are quite subject to nematodes and when heavily infested will not amount to much. If you are not familiar with the work of nematodes, look for knots or nodules on the roots. When attacked by these extremely minute pests, roots are often entirely destroyed by them. Unfortunately there is no remedy that can be offered to control them once they are in the plant itself. If not already heavily infested, it is possible that liberal applications of fertilizer may induce the plants to throw out new roots and for a time at least enable them to partially overcome the injurious effects of these pests.

QUESTION: We have a species of bamboo in our yard that is spreading all over the place. Have chopped it down several times but it insists on shooting up elsewhere. Could you please tell us if there is anything we can put on to kill the roots? Would appreciate your kind advice. W.H.H.

ANSWER: There are two or three chemicals you can use, anyone of which would be satisfactory. Carbon bisulphide injected in the ground around the roots will kill them out and not injure the ground for other plantings later on. Use about two fluid ounces of carbon bisulphide to every 18 or 20 inches square, making holes in the ground from 6 to 10 inches deep. A pointed broom stick is a good as anything else for this purpose. Close the holes up immediately to hold chemical as it is explosive if exposed the gas in. Do not use fire around this to fire. One should be careful not to breathe too much of it also. If there are other plant roots close by carbon bisulphide may injure them also and this must be taken into consideration. Another chemical that is

Horseradish Roots, Artichoke Plants and Strawberries.

fatal to plant growth—either top or roots—is sodium arsenite. It has the disadvantage of sterilizing the soil, however, for many months after its use. A pound of this material dissolved in 15 or 20 gallons of water and poured in around the bamboo roots will certainly kill them. It is a deadly poison and must not be inhaled. The best effect will be obtained by making holes in among the bamboo crown in which the arsenite solution can be poured.

Even rock salt, say 10 or 15 pounds, worked in around the roots and heavily irrigated will be successful. This also will sterilize the ground for a long period.

QUESTION: I am bothered with earthworms in the lawn. What is the remedy, if any? After a rain or heavy irrigation, they cover the lawn with mounds of earth. S.P.

Earthworms in lawns can be controlled by the use of bichloride of mercury (corrosive sublimate), either dry or in solution. Two, or not to exceed three, ounces of bichloride of mercury are dissolved in 50 gallons of water will be sufficient to cover 1000 square feet of lawn. After the solution is applied to the infested lawn, it should be followed with at least twice the quantity of water in order to wash the chemical into the soil. If you wish to use the chemical dry, pulverize two or three ounces and mix it into two cubic feet of sand, scattering the mixture evenly over 1000 square feet of lawn. This should then be followed by a heavy irrigation. After the above treatment, worms will begin coming to the surface when they should be immediately swept up and disposed of in order to prevent birds from obtaining them with the possibility of being poisoned.

Lead arsenate is equal to, or possibly slightly superior, to corrosive sublimate as an earthworm destroyer. Five pounds of lead arsenate should cover 1000 square feet of lawn. To insure uniform application mix this poison at the rate of one pound to the bucket of sand or loam, applying when the grass is dry. Irrigate afterwards and repeat in two or three weeks, if necessary.

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